



The Geneva Cabinet

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The Story of Oram's: An Interview with the Owners

By Ethan Smith

Recently, I had the privilege of interviewing Dave Booth and Brian Bicksler, co-owners of Oram's Donuts in downtown Beaver Falls. I wanted to interview someone familiar with Oram's to discuss its commercial success and long-lasting relationship with the people of Beaver Falls. Also, I wanted a donut.

If you've ever tasted a donut from Oram's, you will likely not be surprised that it was rated the best donut shop in PA in 2022 and 2023 and has been argued to be one of the best donut bakeries in the nation. Best known for its iconic cinnamon rolls, the bakery has gathered local and national acclaim since its opening during the Great Depression. Because the small business' donuts are so highly esteemed, one prominent part of Oram's environment is that it is tremendously, neverendingly busy.

"Customers... have bought [the donuts] to take with them on flights and have even packed them very specifically and carefully in the car so they could take them to family in Georgia," Booth said. "Oram's is a part of Beaver Falls that is being exported all over the world." Oram's impressive regional influence testifies to the power a cultural artifact, even that of a cinnamon roll, can have in demonstrating the grit and creativity of a place like Beaver Falls.

Before my interview with Bicksler and Booth, I read an article stating that Oram's uses over 1000 pounds of dough each weekend. When I asked the two if this was still correct, Bicksler said, "We actually go through over 1200 pounds of dough a weekend now." This estimate equates to roughly 62,500 pounds per year, just from sales on Friday and Saturday. The shop's increase in product can be attributed to COVID and the national shutdown.



Bicksler said the pandemic noticeably impacted the shop. "[Our] pattern has broken and hasn't gone back to normal. The reality is that anything could be normal now." During 2020, Oram's was officially categorized by PA as a bakery, meaning that they were exempt from closing mandates. Booth said, "During COVID and still now, we get lots of bulk orders. This is company driven. The trend of offices

buying donuts for people because of COVID stress has continued." Oram's increase in product during the pandemic demonstrates that an object as simple as a donut can powerfully remind someone of their home.

Oram's was founded in Beaver Falls in 1938 by William and Lillian Oram. In 1960 the Oram's foster son, Tom Bradshaw, took over the shop. Shortly after, representatives from Pillsbury Dough visited the bakery. Bradshaw regarded most of the company's suggestions as unhelpful but clung on to one idea that he innovated to create the Oram's cinnamon roll. Upon its arrival in the shop, the roll cost only thirty-five cents. The recipe for the cinnamon roll has not changed in over sixty years, just like the green sign on the front of the shop, which is an original from Schomer's Bakery, a store in Beaver Falls that no longer exists.

In 2023, the workday begins surprisingly early at Oram's. Most shifts start in the evening and end in the middle of the night, while most of the county is still asleep. The first batch of workers arrives at 8:00 PM, forming and frying the dough that will be enjoyed the next morning. At 10:00 PM, the "finishers" begin, who ice and glaze the sweet treats. Finally, at midnight and just as a new day is beginning, a team of bleary-eyed drivers enters the shop to distribute Oram's to several locations in Pittsburgh and the surrounding area. Bicksler appreciates his hard-working team. "Much of the success of the donuts can be chalked up to the staff. They have a lot of pride in working at Oram's. They help create the culture."

During the interview, Booth explained that one feature that sets Oram's apart from other donut shops is the time the bakery spends with its product. "I think one of our core things," he said, "is that we are yeast based. Many donut places only do cake donuts. This is one thing that makes us old-fashioned. It takes more equipment and more time to do yeast donuts. People can come in and order a cake donut and it will take only a moment. Customers sometimes ask why we don't have cinnamon rolls ready at 8 AM when [we] run out, and the answer is that they would take another four hours to finish."

Oram's is fully dedicated to the tradition of its product. As an article in Food & Wine Magazine stated, "In an age when even the most stubbornly classic doughnut makers have capitulated to the visually-minded crowd... one of the finest doughnuts in America comes from a charming little relic called Oram's Donut Shop, in a relic of a town called Beaver Falls, up the road from Pittsburgh."

Despite Oram's awards and impressive business numbers, the shop firmly maintains a familial and communal focus. Bicksler, a native of the D. C. area, spoke about this aspect of the shop. "One time, the owner of a store a couple places down came in to get help with something. While he was waiting outside the shop with me, he said, 'You know, the only reason Beaver Falls means something to people is Joe Namath and Oram's.'" Bicksler went on to explain that, with the busyness of the shop, it's sometimes

easy to forget what Oram's means to people, and that it's nice to be reminded of this.

As I conclude my research by enjoying a delicious, chocolate, cream-filled Oram's donut, you could ask me what I think Oram's means to the people of Beaver Falls. I would tell you that, while Joe Namath left Beaver Falls for college only a year after the cinnamon roll was created, I'm confident that Oram's donuts will stick around in the community for a while, filling 7th Avenue with donuts—and perhaps other areas of the world too.

Geneva College to Replace Historic "G" with New Logo

By Caleb Willis

Known by Beaver Falls locals and Geneva students as simply, "The G," the white letter G emblazoned on a black tarp has decorated the mountain face behind Eastvale for decades. On **April 1st**, 2023, leadership at Geneva College moved to take down "The G" to make room for a custom tarp bearing the new shield-shaped logo. When asked about the reasoning for such a change, a Geneva official who requested to remain anonymous said, "As much as we appreciate 'The G' and everything it stands for, it has been around for a long time. The letter G was invented hundreds of years ago and, while that makes it special, we feel we need to put something on the mountain that more accurately represents the mission of Geneva College in the modern age."

Another anonymous official seconded this idea and went on to emphasize the importance of using the mountain face as a platform to promote the new logo and differentiate Geneva College from other Christian schools. When I asked how putting the new logo on the mountain would differentiate the college from, say, Liberty University which also has a much bigger and more impressive version of its logo on a mountain in Lynchburg, the official responded by talking about how unique our logo is compared to Liberty's. I asked her how she thought Geneva's logo was superior to the shield-shaped logos of Grove City College, Eastern University, Regent University, and Wheaton College, but she ended the interview without answering.

I asked several people in the Admissions Office what they thought about the change. The common response to my questions was overwhelming optimism. "One of the first things a student looks for in a college is what totally irrelevant things the school offers," said a staff member in admissions who chose to remain unnamed. "That includes branding, but it especially includes what a college chooses to put on the mountain face next door."

I asked several students what they thought about this upcoming change to the beloved G. One *Continued on next page...*

Golden Thread

By Kelsey Gerhard

Q: What are you looking forward to over Easter break?



Kevin Arseneaux | Class of 2025

A: I am looking forward to quiet time to focus on reading and personal projects that unfortunately take the back-burner during the heat of the semester.



Morgan Showalter | Class of 2024

A: "Getting to see all of my family and go for walks on the beach."



Anna Eshelman | Class of 2024

A: I and a bunch of others are spending break at a friend's house, so I'm looking forward to all the shenanigans. Also, sleep. Lots of sleep



Anne Holdeman | Class of 2023

A: My whole extended family is getting together in Bloomington for my uncle's 50th birthday, and I'm just really grateful to see everyone and also hang out with my friends.

*...Continued from front page
("Geneva to Replace Historic "G" with New Logo)*

student merely looked at me in dumb shock – probably brought about by awe at such intelligent use of college resources. The final student I spoke to mumbled something under his breath about the water fountains in Pearce Hall as he walked by, but I was unable to catch exactly what he said. Overall, the response from Geneva's administration and its student body seems to be in perfect alignment. Personally, I could not be more excited about the change. We definitely need the new logo displayed in way more places than it already is.

Note from the Editor: the preceding article is a satirical piece written for April Fool's Day. The opinions expressed within this article are not representative of Geneva College or its employees.

Wellness Wednesday Goes Belly Up

By Celia York

Wellness Wednesday at Geneva College is usually a time for students to come together and relax by doing crafts and eating snacks. However, a recent Wellness Wednesday turned into anything but calming when dozens of goldfish began dying on the scene.

Lexie Macioce, a junior, was one of the many students eagerly attending the event that day.

"At first I was really excited, because I didn't expect them to give out free fish," she said. "There were a bunch of people there crowding the table and I think we were all really curious about what they were about to bring out."

Organizers of the event began bringing out live fish as attendees decorated fish tanks. However, the fish were placed in tap water which contains harmful amounts of chlorine. Less than an hour in, the first fish died with many others following suit soon after.

Several fish made it back to dorm rooms, Macioce's included.

"I was still excited bringing the fish back to my apartment, but I was worried because they asked us to use water from the bathroom. I wasn't sure that'd be the best, but I didn't have any other water. The fish was fine when we brought it back, but we left for about an hour for dinner and when we came back it was dead. I was disappointed, but not really surprised."

At least two students managed to save their new pets by immediately changing the water in the bowl to distilled water when they returned to their dorms.

"They didn't try to offer any new fish or anything," Macioce said. "I feel like it wouldn't work unless they gave us better bowls or tap water cleaner, so they'd actually survive."

Hopefully future Wellness Wednesdays go along more swimmingly.



Men's Volleyball Heads to Playoffs with Sweep of Hilbert

Courtesy of Geneva College Athletics

The Geneva College men's volleyball team wrapped up the regular season on Saturday, March 8, with a sweep (25-13, 25-11, 25-23) of Hilbert as the Golden Tornadoes prepare for the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) playoffs next week. Geneva is now 17-14 overall, 12-1 in the AMCC: its best record in a full season in conference play.

Geneva took little time in taking control of set one, jumping out to a quick 5-2 lead behind two kills from junior Emerson Spear and one from senior Byron Spear. Hilbert would try to stay close, but the Golden Tornadoes reeled off eight straight points late in the set, with Byron Spear adding two more kills and senior Jake Williams two aces. A kill from junior Carter Milroy finished off the set, 25-13.

The second set brought more of the same. Geneva again jumped out to a 5-2 lead, and the Golden Tornadoes never let up. An 11-2 run midway through the set, with Byron Spear adding three more kills, pushed the Geneva edge to 18-7, and a double block from Milroy and graduate student Matthew Slater closed out the set, 25-11.

The third set was much closer. Hilbert jumped ahead early and led for most of the set, extending their lead to 14-9 at one point. A Geneva timeout seemed to turn things around as the Golden Tornadoes scored the next five points to pull level, but the Hawks quickly pushed their lead back out to 19-15. Geneva responded with a 5-1 run to tie the score at 20-20. The teams alternated the next four points before an ace from Emerson Spear gave the Golden Tornadoes their first lead, 23-22, since scoring the opening point of the set. A kill from Byron Spear got Geneva to match point, and after a Hilbert point, Spear finished off the match with a kill, 25-23.



Byron Spear led the offense with 15 kills on a .333 hitting percentage. Milroy, Williams, and Emerson Spear each added five kills as Geneva hit .238 as a team. Graduate student Curtis Thomas had 22 assists, while sophomore Joshua Sangrey finished with 16 digs. Milroy added five blocks as well.

Geneva finished the regular season tied in the AMCC with Penn State Behrend, but because Behrend defeated the Golden Tornadoes in their only matchup this year, Behrend will host the AMCC playoffs. Geneva gets a bye in the first round and will play the winner of the quarterfinal match between Thiel and Hiram on Friday, April 14. The championship match will be held on Saturday, April 15.

Humanities Department: Budget Reductions Affect TAs

By Caleb Willis

Starting next semester, the Humanities Department plans to cut a few teaching assistant positions and reduce the salaries of others. This reduction came after Provost Melinda Stephens requested each academic department to shrink expenditures by five percent. The decisions on how to change the employment situation in each class were made through an extended discussion between Dr. Cole – the head of the Humanities department – and the leadership teams of each course.

The Humanities 103 team will keep the usual three TAs during Fall semesters but only retain two during Spring semesters. Humanities 203 will move from two to one TA working at reduced hours. The Humanities 303 team will keep two TAs, but both will be employed at reduced hours.

“We made the choice we did in order to ensure Humanities can continue to be a key component of Geneva’s core,” said Dr. Cole when I asked him about the budget changes. “Dr. Stephens went to each department head and asked: is what we’re doing here realistic in the long-term?”

Dr. Cole was quick to emphasize that these changes are not “cuts” to the budget. Rather, they are adjustments that are meant to line up with both the number of hours each TA works in a week and how many TAs are realistically needed every semester to properly administer the course.



“We want to support faculty and TAs and we want to be good stewards,” Dr. Cole said. “We want to be more efficient while continuing to serve our students well.”

I also spoke to Dr. Szabo, an English professor and organizer for Humanities 303. “We’re a tuition-driven school and that requires some responsibility,” she said, after initially expressing disappointment in the budget reduction. I asked her what she thought specifically about the adjustments to the hours of existing TAs. While she expressed an understanding of why the department took these steps, she expressed disapproval of the underlying assumptions that go into such an approach.

“Teaching is more like being a minister than someone who punches into a time clock,” she said. “The TA system is more than somebody to grade quizzes or take attendance. They’re some of our best and brightest.”

Dr. Szabo went on to express that the TA system is not only geared towards helping the students enrolled in the courses but is also meant to provide the TAs with practical experience. “We want to mentor TAs,” she said, “And we want to help them be mentors for other students.”

Although there are some understandable concerns about how the three Humanities programs will run in the future, professors in all three courses are committed to upholding the standard of excellence in teaching that has characterized the Humanities classes for so long. Although TAs will work from a reduced schedule moving forward, positions for new

have access to the opportunities that come from such a position.

First *Chimes* Reading Anthology Held in Skye Lounge

By Celia York

On Friday, March 31, staff members of the *Chimes* team held an event in Skye Lounge to release the newest edition of the magazine. Selected students also presented their original submissions.

In previous years, *Chimes* has been released at The Geneva Reading Series, an event hosted by Dr. Dan Williams. Since Dr. Williams was on sabbatical, the magazine staff was tasked with coming up with a new event idea. Hannah Koncsol, a staff member of *Chimes*, came up with the name *Chimes* Reading Anthology. The staff decided to ask a few students to share their published work during the event.

The evening began with refreshments, featuring drinks from Green Bean Coffee & Tea and various desserts.



Assistant Editor Caleb Willis hosted the evening, introducing each participant before they took the stage.

Caleigh McCready, a senior studying history and English, began the program by reading a nature essay she wrote. Then, Pearl Soundron, a freshman biology major, read three of her poems. Noah Whipple, a senior majoring in history and political science, displayed his quilled paper art and spoke about his artistic process. Next Kailee Boylan, a senior communication major, read an essay. Emily Keck, a junior studying writing, read two of her poems. Dr. Shirley Kilpatrick closed out the evening by reading some of her original poetry.

Additional copies of the magazine are located in McCartney Library.



Asked & Answered

By Abigail Plitt

A: What is the best pizza place around Geneva College?

There are plenty of good places to go for food around our lovely campus, and one of the most common things to get is pizza. When it comes to finding the right slice, it can be hard to find a reliable place in these little college towns.

Personally, I think that the best place by far is Pizza Joes. I don’t necessarily love pizza, so when I do eat it, I prefer to get a veggie pizza from Pizza Joes. The white sauce combined with broccoli and cheese really makes for a tasty treat. Along with that, I love that they have personal pizzas available, which I feel like most places don’t offer. Their service is always great, and their food is even better.

However, I know that it is hard as a college student to afford food outside of the normal gas station snack, which can make getting Pizza Joes a rarity. Luckily for you, Geneva partners with Papa Johns at the bottom of the hill to make it possible for students to use their flex points to pay for food. This has saved me multiple times when a quick meal is needed outside of the dining hall. It is as simple as ordering your food and then paying as if you were in the dining hall.

While it isn’t Pizza Joes, I have found that Papa John’s menu variety is definitely worthwhile. Again, I don’t necessarily love pizza, so whenever I can find a place that offers things other than pizza, I consider it a win. However, their pizza is pretty good.



Q: What are the best cheap snacks for college?

As a graduating senior, I definitely feel qualified to be answering this question. Over the years, I have definitely had my fair share of snacks that have really saved me in a pinch. And especially when you’re on a budget - I got you.

As an athlete, I love granola bars - especially KIND bars. Something about them is so good that I can’t get enough of them. They are something that I can grab quickly if I am rushing out of the door and need something to tide me over for a few hours.

Another thing I find myself reaching for a majority of the time is fruit snacks. Not just any fruit snacks. No, I mean the good ones: Welch’s Fruit Snacks. The only ones worth grabbing. They are quick, easy snacks and honestly delicious. I definitely recommend them.

And, if you are lucky enough to have your own toaster, I highly recommend getting English muffins with either Nutella or peanut butter and honey. These are good at any time of the day. And with a little butter, Nutella, or peanut butter they are honestly top tier (in my opinion of course).

Did You Know?

By Abigail Plitt

Did you know that a cow haunts Old Main?

According to Geneva legend, when the college was still decently young a few students decided that they would take a cow up to the bell tower of Old Main for their senior prank. So, they somehow maneuvered a cow all the way up to the top of the building, giving the cow the view of a lifetime. But what they failed to realize is that while a cow can walk up stairs, it cannot walk back down. So, they had to end the life of the cow. While they eventually got the body down, rumor has it that the cow's ghost stayed in the building.

If you're ever in the basement bathroom and one of the paper towel dispensers goes off without someone being there, just know it's the cow. That's a comforting thought, isn't it?



A Note from the Editor

In the March 29 edition of *The Cabinet*, I misrepresented a few facts in our "Did You Know" column. While rumors circulate that there are cremated remains in McCartney library besides the two in the West Reading Room, library staff members say that this is not the case. Records only show that two were interred in McCartney Library.

Tapia's Walk-off Sends Baseball Home on a High Note

Courtesy of Geneva College Athletics

Saturday, April 8, wasn't a very memorable afternoon for most of the Geneva College baseball team's doubleheader with Thiel on Saturday, but it ended on a high note: senior Adrian Tapia's walk-off allowed the Golden Tornadoes to rally late for an 8-7 win in game two. The Tomcats took game one, 7-2. Geneva is now 12-14 overall, 5-5 in the Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC).

The story for most of the day for the Golden Tornadoes was defensive miscues. In fact, 12 of the 14 runs Thiel scored over the two games were

unearned due to 13 Geneva errors in the double-header. The defensive troubles started early for the Golden Tornadoes in game one. Thiel took advantage of two Geneva errors in the first three batters to score three unearned runs off freshman starting pitcher Collin Porter.



Adrian Tapia

Geneva's offense immediately responded at the bottom of the frame. Freshman Aaron Babu and sophomore Zack Sackett picked up RBI-singles in the first, but the inning could have been even better. The Golden Tornadoes had the bases loaded with one out after Sackett's single, but a line drive turned into a double play, allowing the Tomcats to escape the inning holding a 3-2 lead.

After the good first inning for the Geneva offense, the Golden Tornado bats unfortunately went silent the rest of the game. Geneva defensive errors in the third and fifth innings led to single Thiel runs in each inning, extending the Tomcat lead to 5-2.

Thiel added two more runs in the sixth, Thiel's only two earned runs of the day, to take control of the game, and Tomcats closed out the win, 7-2.

Porter picked up a tough loss, giving up eight hits and six runs, with just one earned. Freshman Ethan Blair led the Geneva offense with three hits, while Babu and Sackett each added two hits.

Freshman Ryan Conover, who has been very strong on the mound for the Golden Tornadoes in his first season, got the start in game two. He was good again, though his defense struggled again behind him.

Geneva jumped ahead with a run in the first inning on a two-out RBI-single from Tapia.

However, Thiel took advantage of Geneva errors in the third and fourth innings to push across an unearned run in each inning, despite picking up just one single in the two frames.

The Tomcats then struck for three runs in the top of the sixth, all after a two-out error extended the inning. Thiel looked to be in full control at that point, up 5-1, as the Geneva offense was struggling to get anything going.

However, the final four innings would have more twists and turns than a Hollywood movie. The Golden Tornadoes got a spark from the bat of sophomore Harrison Burns in the bottom of the inning. Burns hit his first career home run, a two-run shot to right field, to get the Geneva offense

jump-started. The next three Golden Tornadoes reached base, and freshman Ashton Wilson eventually scored on a wild pitch to pull Geneva within 5-4. Junior David Toruno followed with a walk to load the bases again, with just one out, but a groundball double play allowed Thiel to escape the inning while still holding the lead.

Geneva couldn't convert a leadoff double by Tapia in the seventh, leaving the bases loaded, but the Golden Tornadoes kept battling. It finally paid off in the bottom of the eighth. Tapia again came through for Geneva, delivering an RBI-single with one out to pull the Golden Tornadoes even. Then, Geneva got a break back from the Tomcats when a bad relay throw on a potential double play allowed freshman Noah Avey to score the go-ahead run.

Things wouldn't come easily in the ninth, though. After freshman reliever Kirk Bearjar got the first two Tomcats out, Bearjar started to tire after almost three innings of relief. He walked the next two batters, prompting a call to the bullpen to bring in Blair. Blair walked the next batter to load the bases. Geneva looked like it had won the game when the next batter popped up behind the plate, but the foul ball was dropped, allowing the inning to continue. The Tomcats, as they had done all day, converted the extra chance with a two-run RBI-single, giving Thiel the lead back, 7-6.

Despite having let the game get away, the Golden Tornadoes didn't give up. Burns led off the ninth with a walk, his fourth of the day, and senior Gabriel Morales pinch ran for Burns. Morales advanced to second on a wild pitch, and a sacrifice bunt moved him to third with one out. Sackett followed with an RBI-single to bring home Morales to tie the game at 6-6.

Junior Tim Hermansen followed Sackett's single with a double, putting runners at second and third with one out. The Tomcats intentionally walked Toruno to load the bases, and Thiel looked like it might get out of the inning when Avey struck out for the second out of the inning. However, Tapia came through again for the Golden Tornadoes when an inside pitch hit him on the forearm to force in the winning run, 8-7.

Conover ended up pitching 6.0 innings, giving up just five hits while striking out seven. He deserved better, as all five runs he gave up were unearned. Bearjar gave Geneva 2.2 innings of good relief, while Blair recorded just one out but picked up the win.



The Geneva Cabinet

3200 College Ave
Beaver Falls, PA 15010
cabinet.editor@gmail.com
Instagram (@thegenevacabinet)

thegenevacabinet.com



The Team

Editor-in-Chief – Celia York
Assistant Editor – Caleb Willis
Social Media Editor – Maria Shemer
Writers – Kelsey Gerhard, Abigail Plitt
Faculty Advisor – Bill Starke